

**45<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GRAND BAY**

**WATERMELON FESTIVAL**

**JULY 3 - 4, 2018**



**PRESENTED BY INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS**

**MARTHA REBEKAH LODGE #29**

**GRAND BAY LODGE #73**



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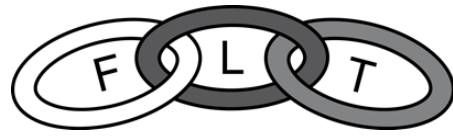
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# Who we are: The Independent Order of Odd Fellows And Rebekahs

MOTTO:



“Friendship, Love, Truth”

We are the family of Odd Fellowship, composed of Men, Women, and Youth, believing in a Supreme Being, Creator and Preserver of the Universe, who have come together in our local communities having the same beliefs and values as others, that Friendship, Love and Truth are the basic guidelines that we need to follow in our daily lives. Through working in our local Communities, States, Provinces, or Nationally we understand that we can make a difference in the lives of people in our World.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) began in 18th Century England, it was deemed *odd* to find people organized for the purpose of giving aid to those in need without recognition and pursuing projects for the benefits of all mankind. Our deep history in North America began with the United States and Canada in 1819, and is continually expanding throughout the World where we are a worldwide fraternity in 26 countries. Grand Bay Lodge #73 was formed in 1873. The Lodge Charter was at Freeland Lane in downtown Grand Bay. The Lodge Charter was renewed in 1984 and is now located at Grand Bay Odd Fellows Festival Park.

The Rebekah's are also a Fraternal Order of the IOOF, as well as a Service Organization. Grand Bay's Martha Rebekah Lodge #29 was chartered in 1984. Rebekah's exhibit the true principles of Odd Fellowship which are Friendship, Love, and Truth and are extended to rendering service to our communities – SERVICE IS OUR GOAL. Ideally, an Odd Fellows lodge is a place for fellowship in all its forms, from hanging out and just having fun, to discussion, to networking, to collaboration on creative and constructive projects, all with an eye not only on our own satisfaction but on what we might offer to the community at large.

The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs are striving to make the world a better place in which to live, seeking:

To Improve and Elevate the Character of Mankind.

Do you believe that Friendship, Love and Truth should be the basic guidelines to live by?

Do you believe in a supreme being, the creator and preserver of the universe?

Do you want to make a difference? **YES?** Then we need you! **Your community needs you!**

## ODD FELLOW VALEDICTION

### I AM AN ODD FELLOW:

I believe in the Fatherhood of God, and the  
Brotherhood of Man;

I believe in Friendship, Love and Truth as basic  
guides to the ultimate destiny of all mankind;

I believe my home, my church or temple, my lodge,  
and my community deserve my best work,  
my modest pride, my earnest faith, and my  
deepest loyalty, as I perform my duty “to  
visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the  
dead and educate the orphan” and as I work  
with others to build a better world, because, in  
spirit and in truth, I am and must always be,  
grateful to my Creator, faithful to my country  
and fraternal to my fellow-man;

### I AM AN ODD FELLOW!

## REBEKAH CREED

### I AM A REBEKAH:

I believe in the Fatherhood of God, the Brother-  
hood of man, and the Sisterhood of woman.

I believe in the watch-words of our Order –  
Friendship, Love and Truth.

Friendship – is like a golden chain that ties our  
hearts together. Love – is one of our most  
precious gifts, the more you give, the more you  
receive. Truth – is the standard by which we  
value people. It is the foundation of our society.

I believe that my main concern should be my God,  
my family, and my friends. Then I should reach  
out to my community and the World, for in  
God's eyes we are all brothers and sisters.

### I AM A REBEKAH!

*Please Take the Time  
To Remember Our  
Men & Women  
Who Are Serving Our Country  
So That We May Be Free.*



*“Freedom is not free.”  
Thank you to all of our Veterans!!*

# Welcome to the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Bay Watermelon Festival

**Presented by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows,  
Grand Bay Lodge #73 and Martha Rebekah Lodge #29**

Festival Chairman	Monnie Tripp
Events Coordinator	Patty Tripp
Queens Coordinator	Judi Miller Poiroux



*2017 Grand Bay Watermelon Festival Queens*

We want you to be sure to enjoy all the sliced ice cold Grand Bay Watermelon you can eat & have a wonderful time!

### *A SPECIAL THANKS!*

We would like to thank the entire community for their support and encouragement of Grand Bay Lodge #73 and Martha Rebekah Lodge #29. We would like to thank our wonderful Sponsors, listed on our Schedule of Events page; all of our program advertisers; local TV and Radio Stations; Sessions Farms who donated our watermelons; all of the volunteers; and to everyone else who helped in any way. *Thanks also to Senator Bill Hightower, County Commissioner Jerry Carl, and Representative David Sessions for their service to our community and the Grand Bay Watermelon Festival.* Please support all of our advertisers and sponsors with your business. They really care about our community. To be a sponsor, or advertise in our program, visit our web site: [www.grandbaywatermelonfestival.org](http://www.grandbaywatermelonfestival.org). If you are interested in joining Grand Bay Lodge #73 or Martha Rebekah Lodge #29, call: 251-865-3456. For our Program Cover this year we offered a contest to the Art Class at Alma Bryant High School. Two students submitted entries. It was a difficult decision but the winner chosen was Patricia Lopez. The other entrant was Thida Eng with a beautiful (color) drawing that says, "You're One in a Melon":



Thanks to both of our entrants! We appreciate your hard work!

# 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Bay Watermelon Festival

## Schedule of Events

### STAGE PERFORMANCE AREA

#### July 3<sup>rd</sup>

3:00 – 5:00 Music by – TBA

5:00 – 7:00 Music by – TBA

*Entertainment, Food,  
and Vendors open 3-7 pm*

#### July 4<sup>th</sup>

Master of Ceremonies –

Chairman of the 45<sup>th</sup> Watermelon Festival –

Monnie Tripp

8:30 Flag Ceremony

National Anthem – 151<sup>st</sup> Army Band  
Alabama Army National Guard

Invocation –

8:35 – 9:35 151st Army Band  
Alabama Army National Guard

9:35 Welcome Address –

9:45 Music by – Southern Relics

10:30 Presentation of Festival Queens –  
Queen's Watermelon Eating Contest

11:00 K-9 Demonstration – Mobile County Sheriffs

11:15 Races and Games in front of the Gazebo –  
Watermelon Carry Race, 3 Legged Race, Potato  
Sack Race, Hula Hoop Competition

12:00 Recognition of Special Guests:

Oldest Person Present

Person Who Traveled the Farthest (to get here)

Judging (at Gazebo):

Largest Watermelon

Best Carved Watermelon

**Largest Watermelon Auction**

12:30 Introductions by Political Candidates

1:00 Music by – Southern Relics

2:00 Car Show Trophy Presentation

2:15 – 4:00 Music by – Southern Relics

### ENTERTAINMENT both days

Meltdown

Rockwall

Train rides

Pony Rides

Bungee Jump

Petting Zoo

Goldfish Pond Gyro

Bounce Houses

Water Walk Balls

Mechanical Bull

### AREA ACTIVITIES July 4<sup>th</sup>

8:45 Pretty Baby Contestants Line up  
(inside main building)

9:00 Pretty Baby Contest Begins

1:00 Seed Spitting Contest (inside main building)

1:15 Corn Hole Toss Team Competition (inside  
main building) \$1.00 Admission, \$4 per Team

3:00 Watermelon Eating Contest –  
Watermelon cutting area.

### OPEN CAR SHOW July 4<sup>th</sup>

8:00 – 2:00 Shine and Show

Voting by Children's Choice (parents can help) for  
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

And Queen's Choice Trophies

Trophies by: Sunny South Raceway

### **Grand Bay Watermelon**

#### **Festival Sponsors:**

Greer's Markets and Cash Savers



Sunny South Raceway

The Flower Hut

Cart Doctor

#### **Children's Ride Sponsors:**

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Deep South Region of AACA

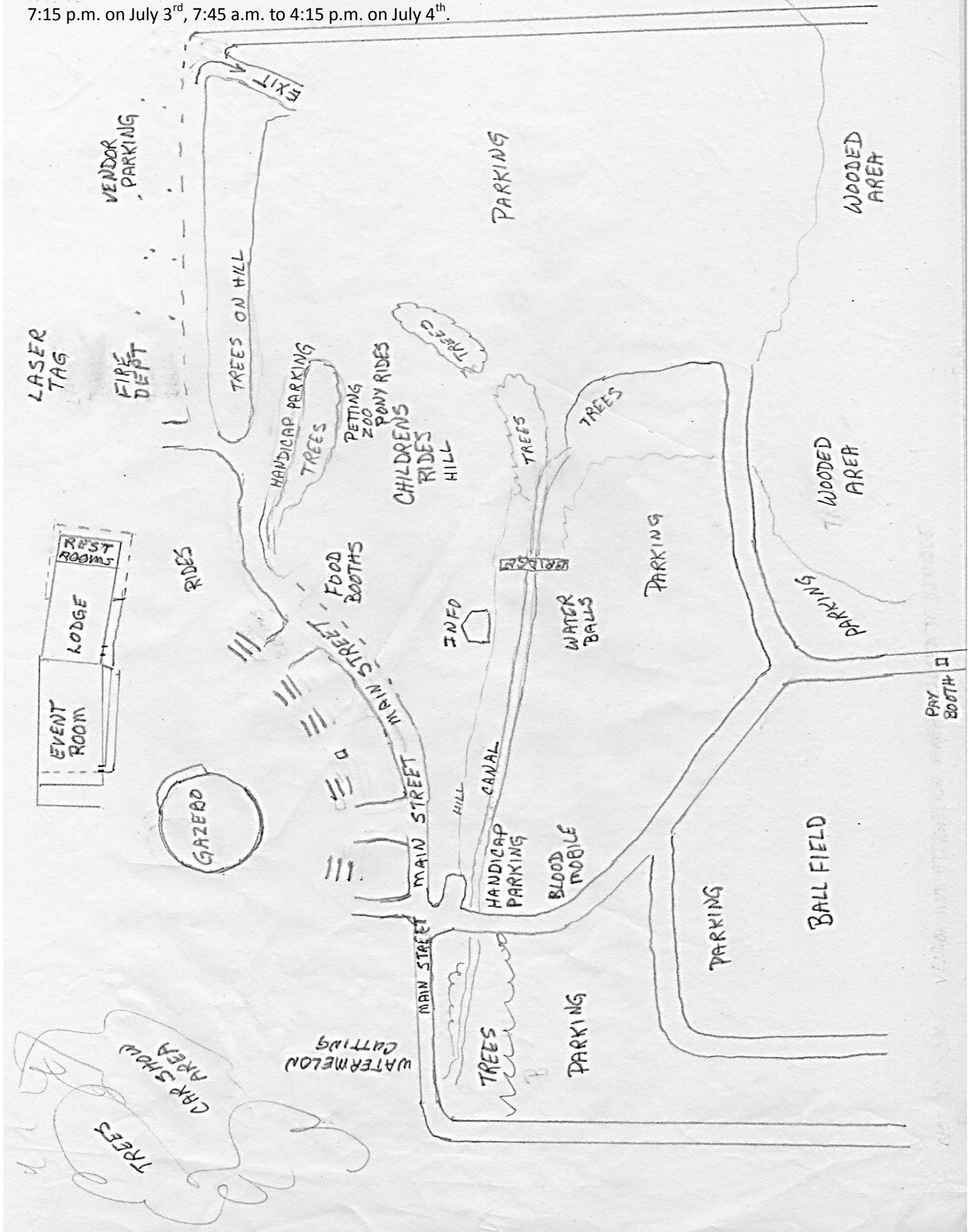
Grand Bay Lodge #73

Martha Rebekah Lodge #29

Ann Bennett

Ramsey Tree Farm

**NOT TO SCALE** Vendor and Attraction Areas are closed to vehicle traffic during Festival times: 2:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. on July 4<sup>th</sup>.



# 2018 GRAND BAY WATERMELON FESTIVAL QUEENS



Queens by age group:

16 – 18 Year Old Queen – Sarah Jane Shearer

10 – 12 Year Old Queen – Breana Gale Houle

7 – 9 Year Old Queen – Lola Grace Fields

4 – 6 Year Old Queen – Charleigh Hatcher

**FESTIVAL QUEEN: Sarah Jane (SJ) Shearer**



Congratulations to the  
Grand Bay Lodge #73  
and Martha Rebekah Lodge #29  
Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF)  
For all their efforts to make this year's Festival a success!



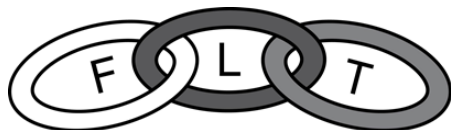
Grand Master – Brother Brent Griffin (not available for photo)

Rebekah President – Sister Edith Nicewonger

I.O.O.F State Executive Officers

*A Special Thank You*

*Thanks to everyone for all of your support and encouragement.  
May God bless each of you, your community, our state, and our nation.*



## Independent Order of Odd Fellows

### Grand Bay Lodge #73 Officers

Noble Grand

Past Noble Grand

Vice Grand

Secretary

Treasurer

Chaplain

Trustees

Bratton McGregor

Monnie Tripp

Troy Perry

Ralph Bosarge

Monnie Tripp

Fletcher Hayes

Monnie Tripp

Ed Holifield

Fletcher Hayes



### Martha Rebekah Lodge #29 Officers

Noble Grand

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Secretary

Treasurer

Chaplain

Patty Tripp

Etta Sullivan

Monnie Tripp

Etta Sullivan

Judi Miller Poiroux

Jennifer Horton

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**ALABAMA STATE SENATOR  
BILL HIGHTOWER (R)**

**Senate District 35**  
(Mobile County)

**Phone Number: 334-242-7882**

Email: [bill.hightower@alsenate.gov](mailto:bill.hightower@alsenate.gov)

**Senator Bill Hightower** graduated from Murphy High School, and was active in sports, and played the trumpet; still a hobby today. After graduating high school, he married his high school sweetheart, Susan Binegar, from Grand Bay. Susan is also a small retail business owner and realtor.

After graduating from the University of South Alabama with his B.S. in Commercial Banking and Finance in 1990, Bill worked with Fortune 100 corporations. His past experience in the decision-making machinery of global corporate offices and legislative involvement makes him uniquely qualified to contribute legislative pro-growth, pro-business strategies to the region. He knows what job-creating companies are looking for and how to encourage them to come to Mobile.

Bill Hightower believes in Mobile County, and believes in making a difference in the state legislature.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MOBILE COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
JERRY CARL**

**District 3**

(South Mobile County)

Commission President

**(251) 574-3000**

Email: [district3web@mobile-county.net](mailto:district3web@mobile-county.net)



**Commissioner Jerry Carl** is a native of Mobile. He has started, built and sold numerous businesses. His professional experience, along with an abiding interest in the welfare of his community, brought him into the realm of public service. Mr. Carl is representative of the vast southern district of Mobile County, stretching from Mobile Bay to downtown Mobile and Grand Bay.

The commissioner continues to manage his businesses. But his proudest accomplishment is being married to his wife, Tina, for more than 30 years, raising their three kids, focusing on their four grandchildren and service as a deacon at his Luke 4:18 Church.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ALABAMA STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DAVID SESSIONS (R)**

**House District 105**

(Mobile County)

**(334) 242-0947**

[d.r.sessions@att.net](mailto:d.r.sessions@att.net)



**Representative David Sessions** was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives. He graduated from Mobile County High School in 1978 and is a farmer and co-owner of Sessions Farms, a diversified family farming operation in South Mobile County. Representative Sessions currently serves as President of Grand Bay Water Works, and Producers Gin Co. LLC. Additionally, he serves as a supervisor on the board of the Mobile County Soil and Water Conservation District. He is past President of the Alabama Pecan Growers Association. Representative Sessions is married to Lisa Driskell Sessions and they have three children. He and his family attend First Baptist Church in Grand Bay.

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We hope you enjoy our music and eat lots of good watermelon!!***

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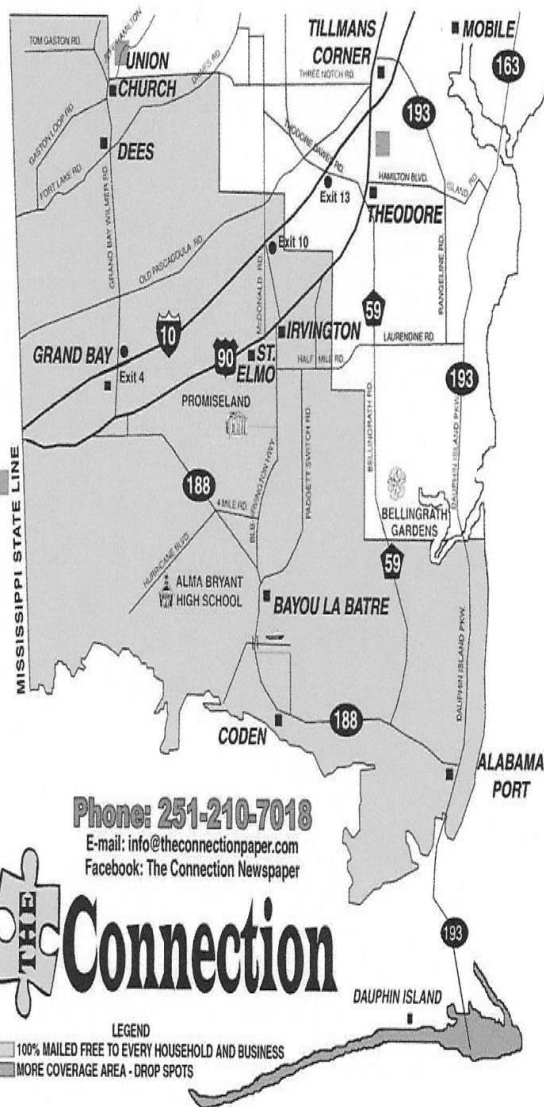
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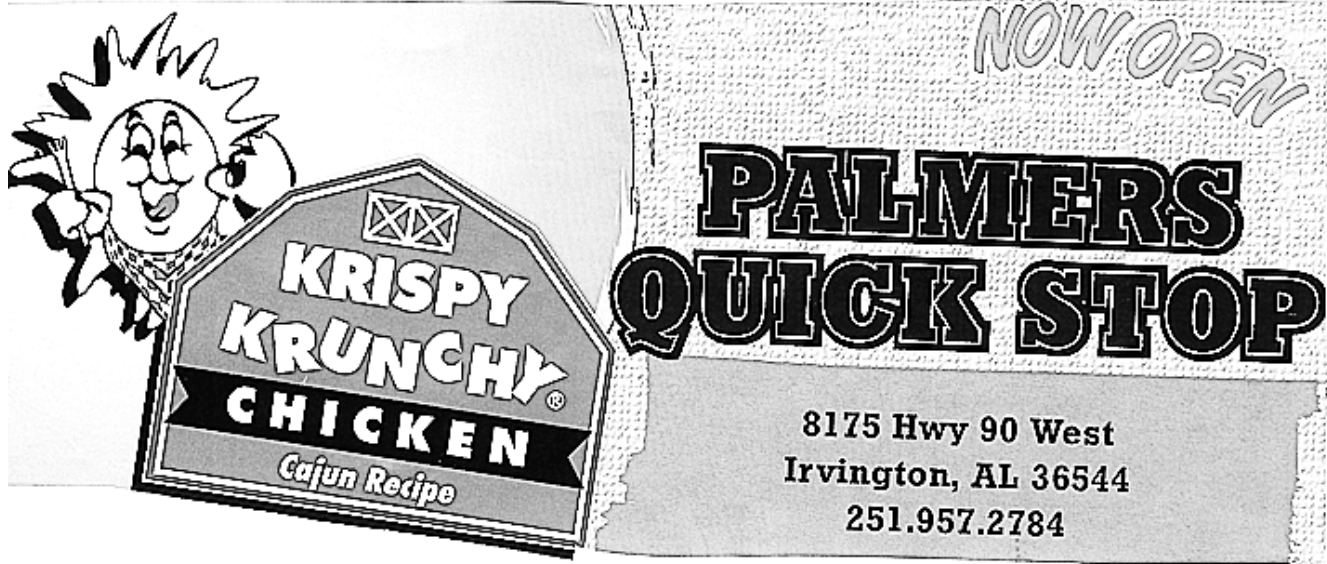
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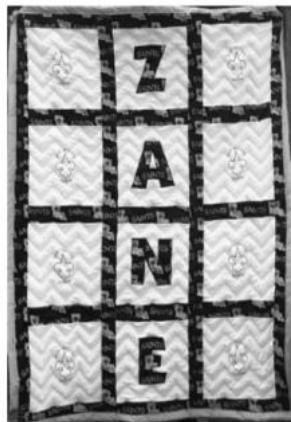
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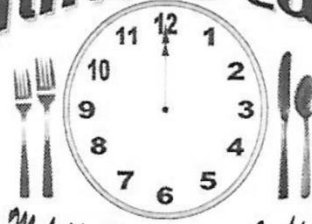
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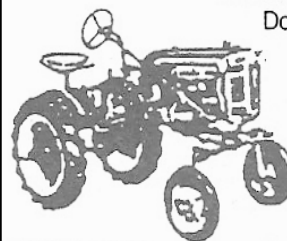
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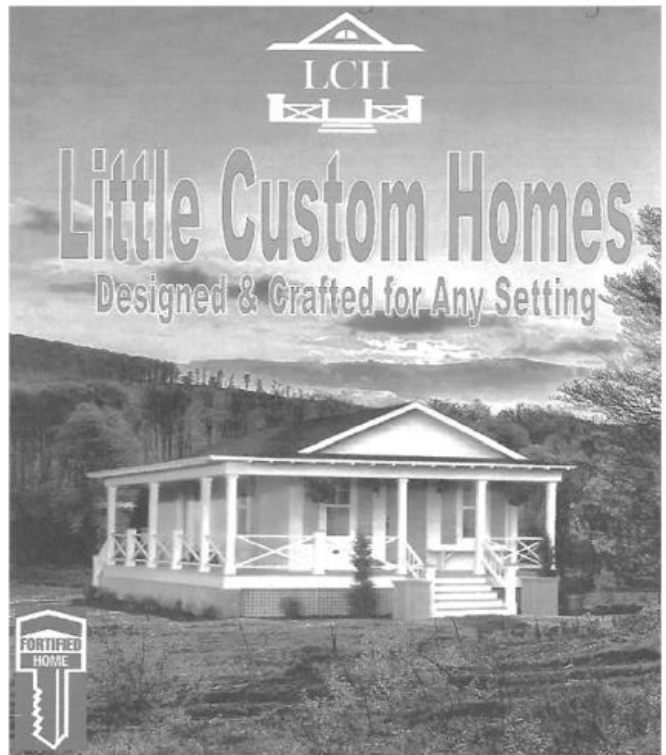
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would like to wish you a Happy and Safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July! Use plenty of Sunscreen and drink lots of water. If using fireworks please use extreme precautions so you and your family stay safe. ¶

¶ We are always looking for more Volunteers who are willing and wanting to become trained, qualified Fire Fighters. If you are interested in joining us visit the North Fire Station and fill out an application. ¶

***We need you! ¶***

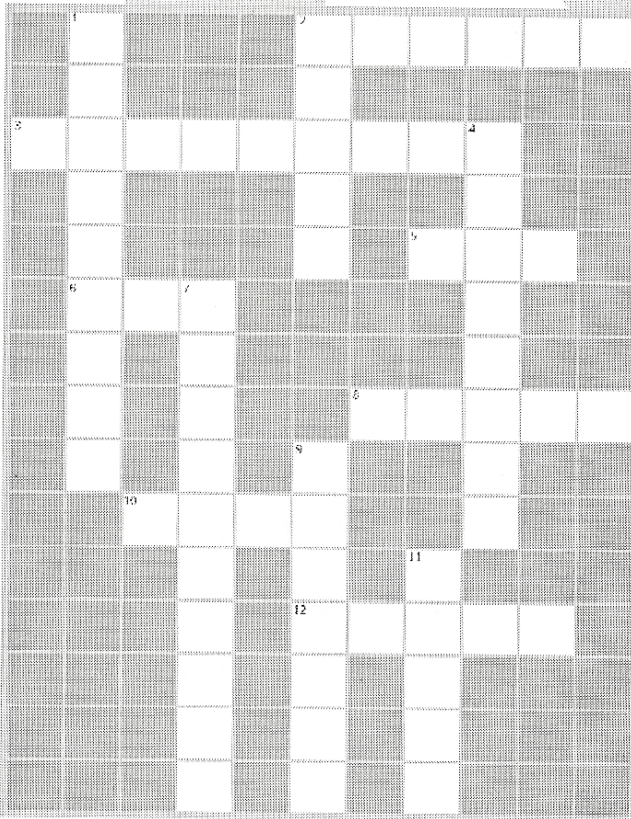
Watermelon. Healthy and Delicious. Everyday.

# J. Slice FUN Page!



Fun from the National Watermelon Promotion Board

## Watermelon Crossword Puzzle



### Across

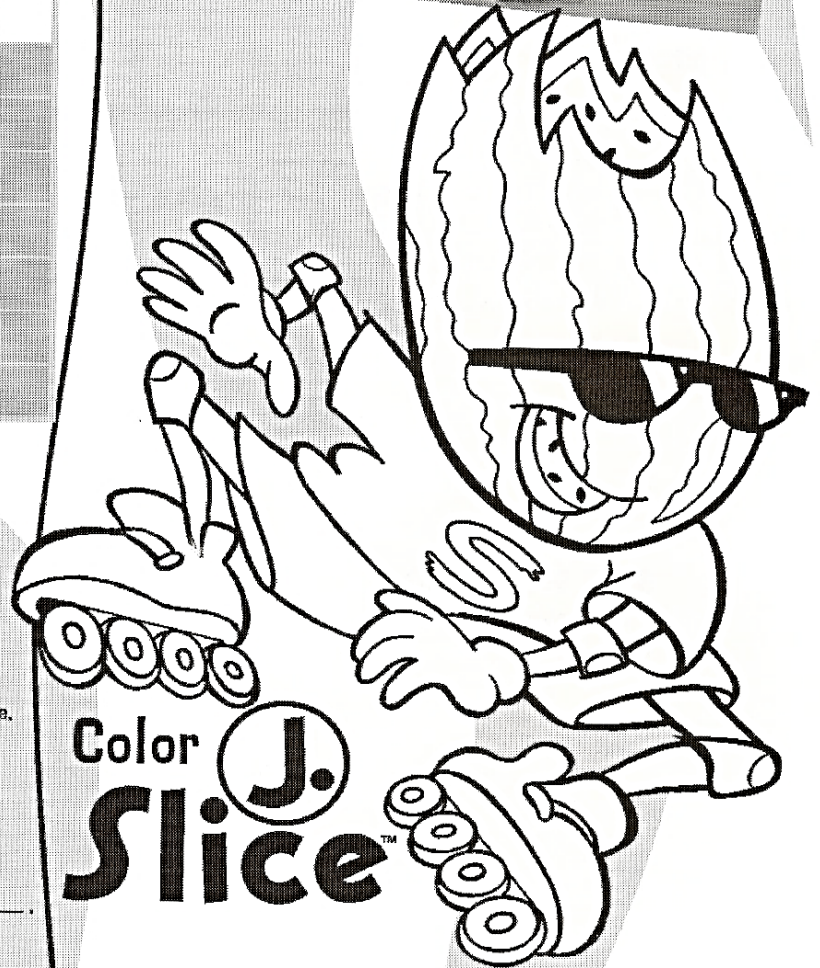
2. Our favorite new watermelon hero is \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(hint, you can color his picture on the front of this paper!)
3. Watermelon tastes sweet and \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. The color of the inside of a watermelon is \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. Everyone seems to have \_\_\_\_\_ when they eat watermelon.
8. Watermelon tastes delicious and \_\_\_\_\_ .
10. Watermelon grows on a \_\_\_\_\_ .
12. Ask for a watermelon slice with your sandwich at \_\_\_\_\_ time.

### Down

1. Watermelon is great for \_\_\_\_\_ , the first meal of the day.
2. A slice of watermelon is so \_\_\_\_\_ it drips when you eat it.
4. Watermelon can have seeds or be \_\_\_\_\_ .
7. Watermelon has lots of vitamins and minerals and is very \_\_\_\_\_ .
9. Eating \_\_\_\_\_ foods is good for your health.
11. Watermelon is great for an after-school \_\_\_\_\_ .

## Easy, Yummy & Fun!

For lunchtime or  
snacktime, use  
cookie cutters to  
cut your favorite  
shapes out of  
slices of  
watermelon.  
Yummy!





## Healthy Popsicles!

### Ingredients:

- 3 cups watermelon puree (seedless if possible)
- 1/2 cup fresh blueberries
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh strawberries
- 1 kiwi, peeled and sliced
- 1 peach or nectarine, diced small handful fresh cherries, pitted and chopped

Cut the watermelon into chunks and then puree it in a blender until smooth. Set aside.

Set out about 1 dozen popsicle molds (amount needed will vary depending on size of molds). Fill each one with the chopped fresh fruit. Then pour in the watermelon puree until each mold is full to the top. Place a popsicle stick into each one. Place into your freezer and freeze for about 6 to 8 hours.

When ready to serve, run the popsicle molds under warm water for a few seconds and then pull each one out.

---



## Creamy Watermelon Pie Recipe

- Prep: 15 min. + chilling
- Yield: 6-8 Servings

### Ingredients

- 1 package (3 ounces) watermelon gelatin
- 1/4 cup boiling water
- 1 carton (12 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 2 cups cubed seeded Watermelon
- 1 graham cracker crust (9 inches)

### Directions

- In a large bowl, dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Cool to room temperature. Whisk in whipped topping; fold in watermelon. Spoon into crust. Refrigerate for 2 hours or until set.

**Yield:** 6-8 servings.

**Nutritional Facts:** 1 serving (1 piece) equals 272 calories, 12 g fat (8 g saturated fat), 0 cholesterol, 147 mg sodium, 36 g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber, 2 g protein.

# History of Watermelon

Watermelon is thought to have originated in the Kalahari Desert of Africa. The first recorded watermelon harvest occurred nearly 5,000 years ago in Egypt and is depicted in Egyptian hieroglyphics on walls of their ancient buildings. Watermelons were often placed in the burial tombs of kings to nourish them in the afterlife.

From there, watermelons spread throughout countries along the Mediterranean Sea by way of merchant ships. By the 10th century, watermelon found its way to China, which is now the world's number one producer of watermelons.

The 13th century found watermelon spread through the rest of Europe via the Moors.

## Where do Seedless Watermelons Come From?

Seedless watermelons were invented over 50 years ago, and they have few or no seeds. When we say seeds, we are talking about mature seeds, the black ones. Oftentimes, the white seed coats where a seed did not mature are assumed to be seeds. But this isn't the case! They are perfectly safe to swallow while eating, and don't worry - no seeds will grow in your stomach.

So, how are seedless watermelons grown? Chromosomes are the building blocks that give characteristics, or traits, to living things including plants and watermelons. Watermelon breeders discovered that crossing a diploid plant (bearing the standard two sets of chromosomes) with a tetraploid plant (having four sets of chromosomes) results in a fruit that produces a triploid seed. (Yes, it has three sets of chromosomes). This triploid seed is the seed that produces seedless watermelons!

In other words, a seedless watermelon is a sterile hybrid which is created by crossing male pollen for a watermelon, containing 22 chromosomes per cell, with a female watermelon flower with 44 chromosomes per cell. When this seeded fruit matures, the small, white seed coats inside contain 33 chromosomes, rendering it sterile and incapable of producing seeds. This is similar to the mule, produced by crossing a horse with a donkey. This process does not involve genetic modification.

## Pick a Good Watermelon

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. Look the watermelon over.  
You are looking for a firm, symmetrical watermelon that is free from bruises, cuts or dents.
2. Lift it up.  
The watermelon should be heavy for its size. Watermelon is 92% water; most of the weight is water.
3. Turn it over.  
The underside of the watermelon should have a creamy yellow spot from where it sat on the ground and ripened in the sun.



## Decorate *just* Like cookies!

### Frosted Watermelon

Seedless watermelon cut into 1/2- to 3/4-inch thick slices  
Yogurt  
Granola or similar cereal



Using your favorite cookie cutters cut shapes out of a 1/2- to 3/4-inch thick slices of seedless watermelon. Frost with vanilla or other flavor yogurt. Top with granola and your favorite sprinkles.

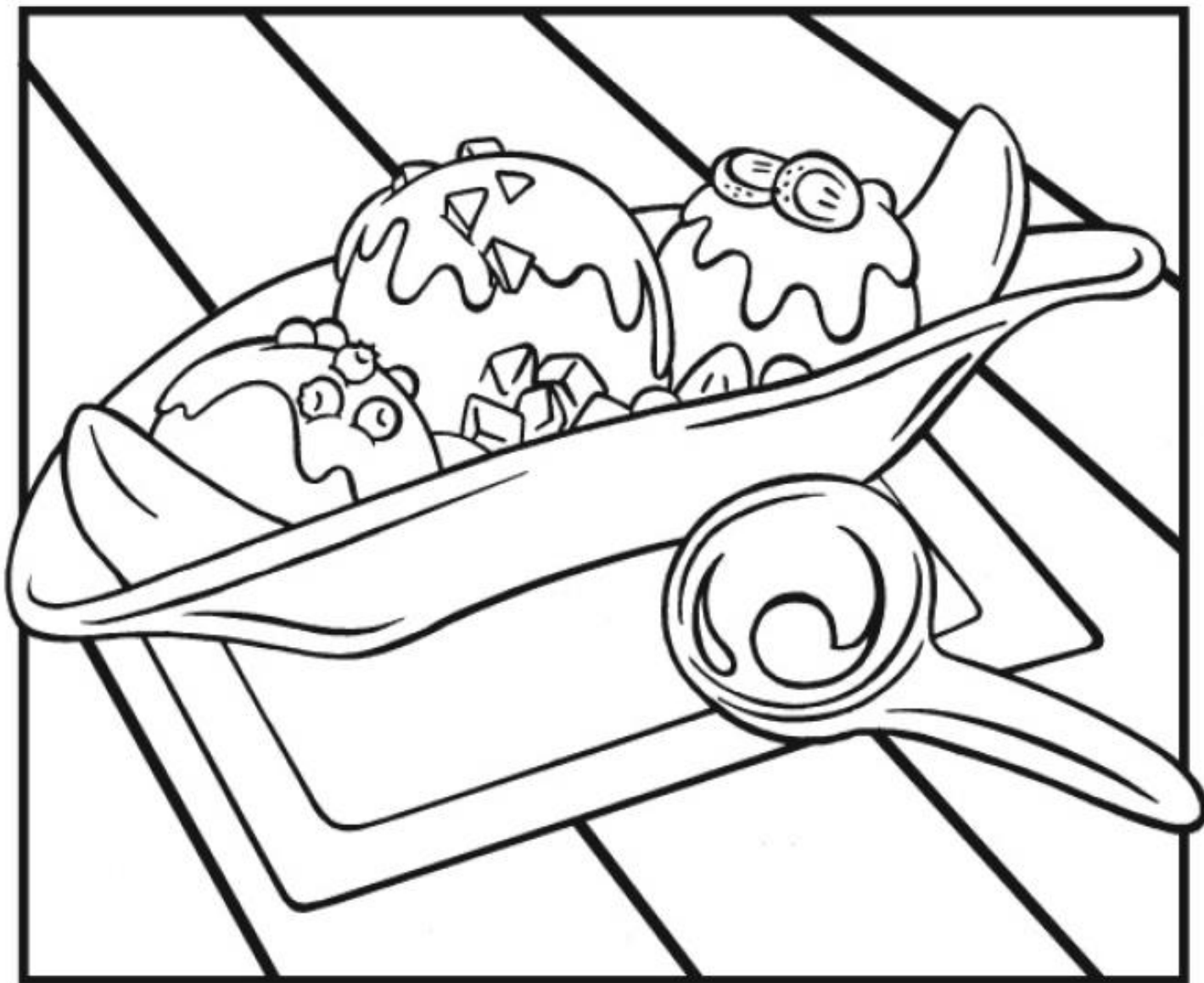
Don't forget a 2-cup serving of watermelon has lots of vitamins A, B6 and C.

[watermelon.org](http://watermelon.org)

National Watermelon Promotion Board







## A HeALThy TwiST To an Old FavoriTe!

### Watermelon Banana Split

2 bananas  
1 medium watermelon  
1 cup fresh blueberries  
1 cup diced fresh pineapple  
1 cup sliced fresh strawberries  
1/4 cup caramel fruit dip  
1/4 cup honey roasted almonds

Peel bananas and cut in half lengthwise then cut each piece in half. For each serving, lay 2 banana pieces against sides of shallow dish. Using an ice cream scooper, place three watermelon "scoops" in between each banana in each dish. Remove seeds if necessary. Top each watermelon "scoop" with a different fruit topping. Drizzle caramel fruit dip over all. Sprinkle with almonds. Makes 4 servings.

Don't forget a 2-cup serving of watermelon has lots of vitamins A, B6 and C.

[watermelon.org](http://watermelon.org)  
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- 5 – Map of the Park
- 6 – 2018 Grand Bay Watermelon Festival Queen’s
- 7 – IOOF State of Alabama Executive Officers: Grand Master and Rebekah President
- 8 – IOOF Lodge #73 Officers and Martha Rebekah Lodge #29 Officers
- 9 – Rent our Facilities
- 10 – Senator Bill Hightower, County Commissioner Jerry Carl, and Representative David Sessions
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- 13 – Sessions Farms, ALFA Insurance
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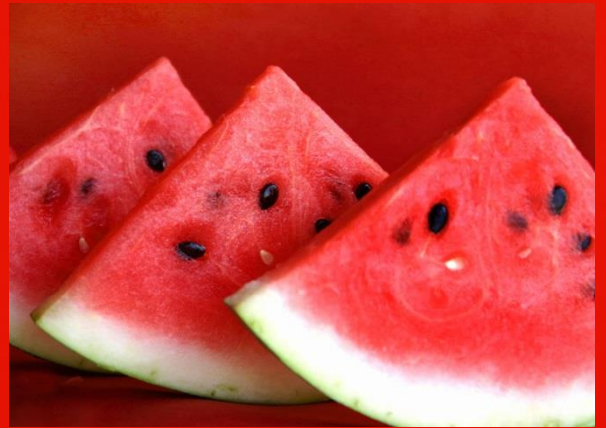
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